



National Criticality Experimental Research Center (NCERC) Course Travel Information

Location:

NCERC is located on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The NNSS is a DOE site, approximately the size of Rhode Island, located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, NV. The main base camp is Mercury, Nevada (searchable on Google maps). NCERC is located in the Device Assembly Facility, a further 25 miles past Mercury on the site.

On Friday, we will be meeting in Las Vegas at the Nevada Support Facility at 232 Energy Way, Las Vegas.

Cell Phones and the NNSS:

Cell phones, even those with cameras, are allowed on the NNSS. However, no cell phones are allowed in DAF. Please leave cell phones in your car.

Prohibited Articles:

Personal cameras (besides those in cell phones) are not allowed on the NNSS. You CANNOT use a camera to take photographs on the NNSS.

As with all DOE sites, illicit drugs, explosives, and firearms are prohibited.

Information on Things to Bring:

- Your badge! If you forget your badge, you might miss out on a day or more of the class.
- \$45 in cash the first day- this will cover lunch Tuesday-Thursday and snacks throughout the week.
- Money or credit card for lunch on Monday and Friday
- A calculator for homework (please leave in your car if you bring it onsite)

Dress Code:

We will be in the lab Monday through Thursday. You need to wear long pants and sturdy shoes (tennis shoes, boots, or leather shoes) on lab days. If you have your own safety glasses with side shields, you may want to bring them for lab days.

If you are attending a class in the winter, the NNSS can be VERY cold in the early morning. Please make sure you bring a jacket.

Radworker II Training:

This is a **hands-on** training course. You will be handling actual fissile materials. For many people, this is the first time they have ever held large quantities of uranium and plutonium. Unless you are a fissile material handler at your home site, you probably are not allowed to go into a facility and pick up fissile material. To come to the NNSS and handle our fissile material, we require that you have Radworker II training. Currently, equivalency has been established for Radworker II for the following sites: LLNL, LANL, SNL, Pantex, Savannah River, PNNL, Y-12, ORNL, AMWTP Idaho, and INL. If you have Radworker II from a site not listed here and have signed up to attend the NCERC class, contact Becka Hudson (925-422-6392, HUDSON14@llnl.gov) *as soon as possible*.

Flight Information:

The closest airport is Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (airport code LAS). You will need to fly in on Sunday (the day before the course starts) as the course will begin early on Monday morning. The course will conclude around 3 pm on Friday. However, given travel time to the airport, rental car drop off, etc., the earliest time you want to reserve a return flight on Friday would be 6 pm.

Rental Car Information:

A rental car is a must for attendance at the class. The NNSS is far from Las Vegas and you will need to drive. Most hotels in Las Vegas provide free parking (some provide free valet).

Driving on the Site:

The NNSS has many interesting sites scattered throughout the desert, but as a visitor, you are not allowed to drive around site-seeing. Please only drive on the Mercury highway to and from DAF. Do not attempt to drive off-road and do not pick up anything on the site to take for a souvenir.

You can be pulled over for speeding on the site. Obey all speed limits.

Driving Tips:

The commute to and from the site will be long (see notes under “Lodging Information” for approximate travel times). There is spotty radio coverage on US-95, so you might want to bring CDs or an mp3 player and an auxiliary cable, especially for the early morning/late evening drives. Satellite radio is an option for your rental car, but is usually not a reimbursable additional expense for government travel. After the first day, you might consider car-pooling with your fellow students.

*******NOTE:** You will go through gasoline VERY quickly with a 150+ mile (round-trip) commute each day. There is NO gasoline available at the NNSS and the gas stations are few and far between on US-95. Keep an eye on your fuel levels!

*******NOTE:** Indian Springs is a small town you will have to pass through on your drive from Las Vegas to the site. This area is a HUGE speed trap, as you go from 70 mph down to **35 mph**. Many people visiting the NNSS have been pulled over for speeding here. Make sure you slow down when going through Indian Springs. On a brighter note, you will drive by Creech Air Force Base, home of both the predator drones and the Thunderbirds. If you're lucky, you just might get a free airshow during your commute to the site.

Lodging Information:

Las Vegas

Las Vegas is usually the lodging location of choice for visitors to the NNSS. There are a plethora of hotels, entertainment, and dining options to choose from in Las Vegas. Many of the hotels offer rates below per diem (currently for FY2012 at \$99), although some do charge add-on "resort fees" (up to \$25/day) which may or may not be reimbursable by your travel department if they cause your lodging to be over per diem. The website www.vegas.com will allow you to easily compare rates at hotels in Las Vegas. Note that these rates DO NOT include the resort fees.

*******NOTE:** If you choose to stay on the Strip (Las Vegas Blvd), be aware that your travel time to Mercury is approximately 75 minutes (early morning, no traffic). Your travel time to DAF (Tuesday-Thursday mornings) from the Strip is approximately 100 minutes.

North Las Vegas

North Las Vegas is another option for lodging near NNSS. It is approximately 10 miles closer to the site than the Strip, and has many chain hotels (Marriott, Hampton Inn, LaQuinta, etc). A popular hotel/casino with many NNSS regular visitors is the J.W. Marriott located on Summerlin Parkway. They do not charge resort fees and will typically offer government rate though their website or by phone reservation.

*******NOTE:** If you choose to stay in North Las Vegas, be aware that your travel time to Mercury is approximately 65 minutes (early morning, no traffic). Your travel time to DAF (Tuesday-Thursday mornings) is approximately 90 minutes.

Mercury Dorms

The NNSS does have dorm rooms available in Mercury. The rooms are standard motel-type rooms with internet access and cable TV. The Mercury cafeteria is the only option for dining. With your badge, you can freely leave the site 24 hours a day. Emergency medical services are also available. Rooms are \$40 per night. They can be booked by contacting Bret Haynes at 702-295-3600 or by email at bret@lanl.gov.

The dorms are located in Mercury and are a 30 minute drive from DAF. See Mercury map at end of this document for dorm locations.

Dosimeters and Radiation Doses

We will issue you a dosimeter on Monday morning. You must wear the dosimeter whenever you are in DAF. It should be worn above the waist with the window facing outwards. You will leave the dosimeters at DAF each night. We will collect the dosimeters on Thursday afternoon at the site. You will not need a dosimeter on Friday.

Radiation doses for the class are expected to be low. All critical experiments will be conducted in a shielded part of the facility to protect you from excessive doses. However, you will be handling fissile material, so you will receive some radiation dose. You will not receive more than 10 mrem during the entire week of the class, and your actual dose is likely to be much lower. At the end of the year, you will get a report of your dose from the NNSS contractor, NSTec, based on your dosimeter readings.

Daily Logistics

We want you as a student to have the most “hands-on” laboratory time as possible and to have a great educational experience. Since our experimental facility is fairly remote, the days will be accordingly long. Even though the morning start times are early, **please arrive on time each day**. If you do not arrive on time, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to participate in the day’s activities.

Monday

We will be meeting at the Mercury Badge Office at 7:15 am on Monday morning. The badge office is located on Mercury highway (take the Mercury exit from US-95 N). The badge office will be on your right just before the guard/badge check station. You will need to get your badge encoded for access to DAF (with a pin number) and enroll in biometrics.

After the badge office, drive through the guard station on Mercury highway (you will be heading north). You will drive into Mercury Base Camp and turn right on Tumbler Ave, make another immediate right BLDG 113 should be on your left (approximately 2 miles from the guard station) where we will meet for morning lecture (marked building 113 on the attached Mercury map).

Lunch will be at the Mercury cafeteria, which your instructors will direct you to. After lunch, we will drive to DAF, continuing north on Mercury highway. DAF is very strict about items that can enter the facility. Please leave all additional electronics (ALL phones, pagers, calculators, etc.), spark-producing items (lighters, matches, etc.), and extraneous metal items in your car. There will be a location for you to store your wireless car key fob, which is also not allowed in DAF.

After an afternoon of experiments, we will finish the day at DAF around 5 pm.

Tuesday-Thursday

Tuesday through Thursday will be spent all day in the DAF. We will meet at 7:15 at the DAF Entry Guard Station (EGS). You will need to leave your hotel approximately 30 minutes earlier than on Monday to make it to DAF on time.

Lunch will be provided for the three days (part of the \$45 fee). Make sure you return your lunch preference sheets to our registration coordinator at least two weeks prior to your class. Also, please remember what you ordered! The lunches will not be marked with names.

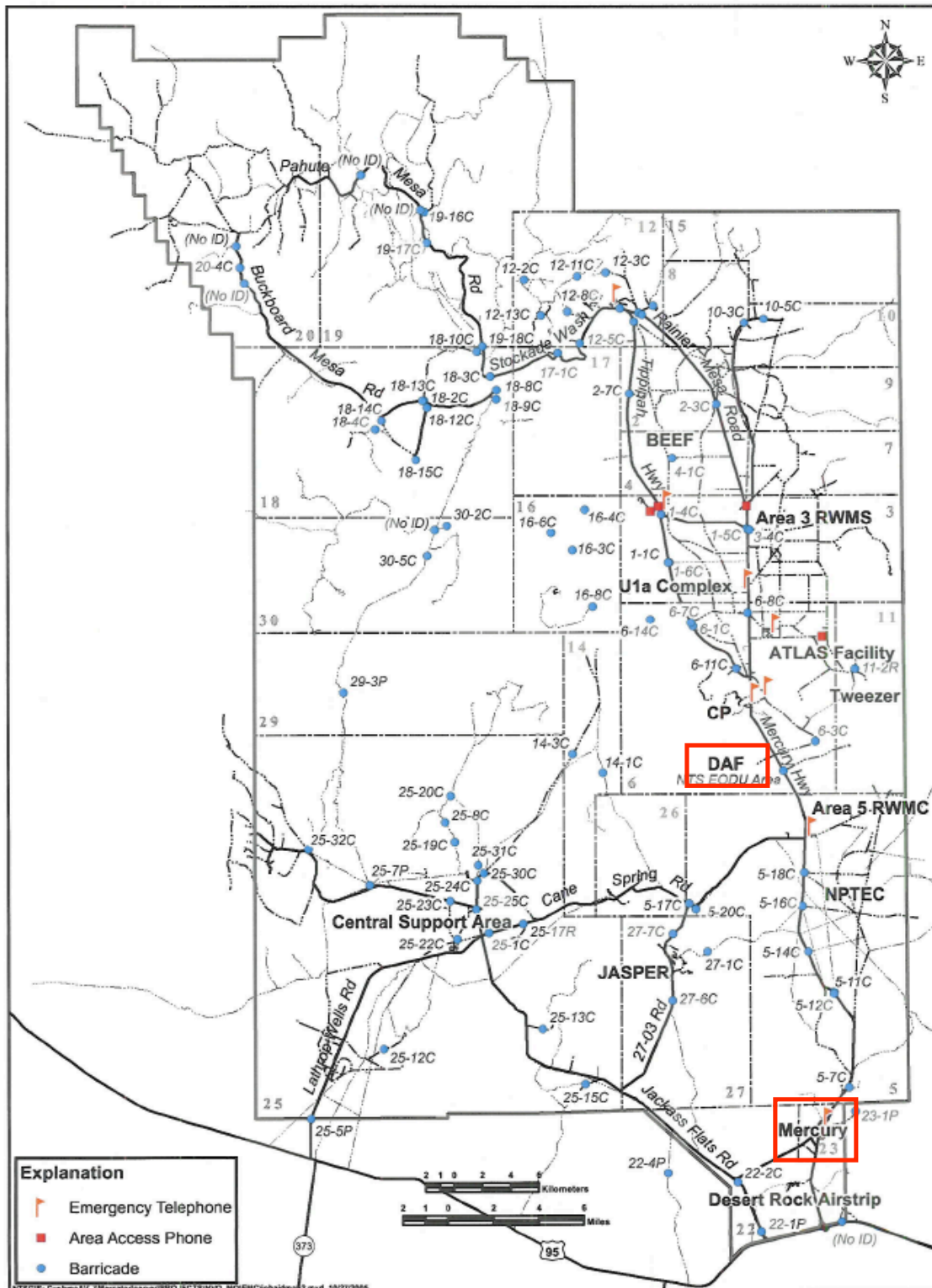
We will finish each day at DAF around 5 pm.

Friday

After a week of early mornings, Friday will be your day to sleep in (a bit!). We will be meeting in town at 8:30 at the Department of Energy's Nevada Support Facility (NSF) at 232 Energy Way, in Las Vegas. Conference room location information will be given to you during the class week. A map is included below on how to get to NSF. Again, you will need your badge to get into NSF.

Lunch will be on your own in the area around NSF. After lunch, tests will be given back at NSF. We expect to be finished with the class around 3 pm.

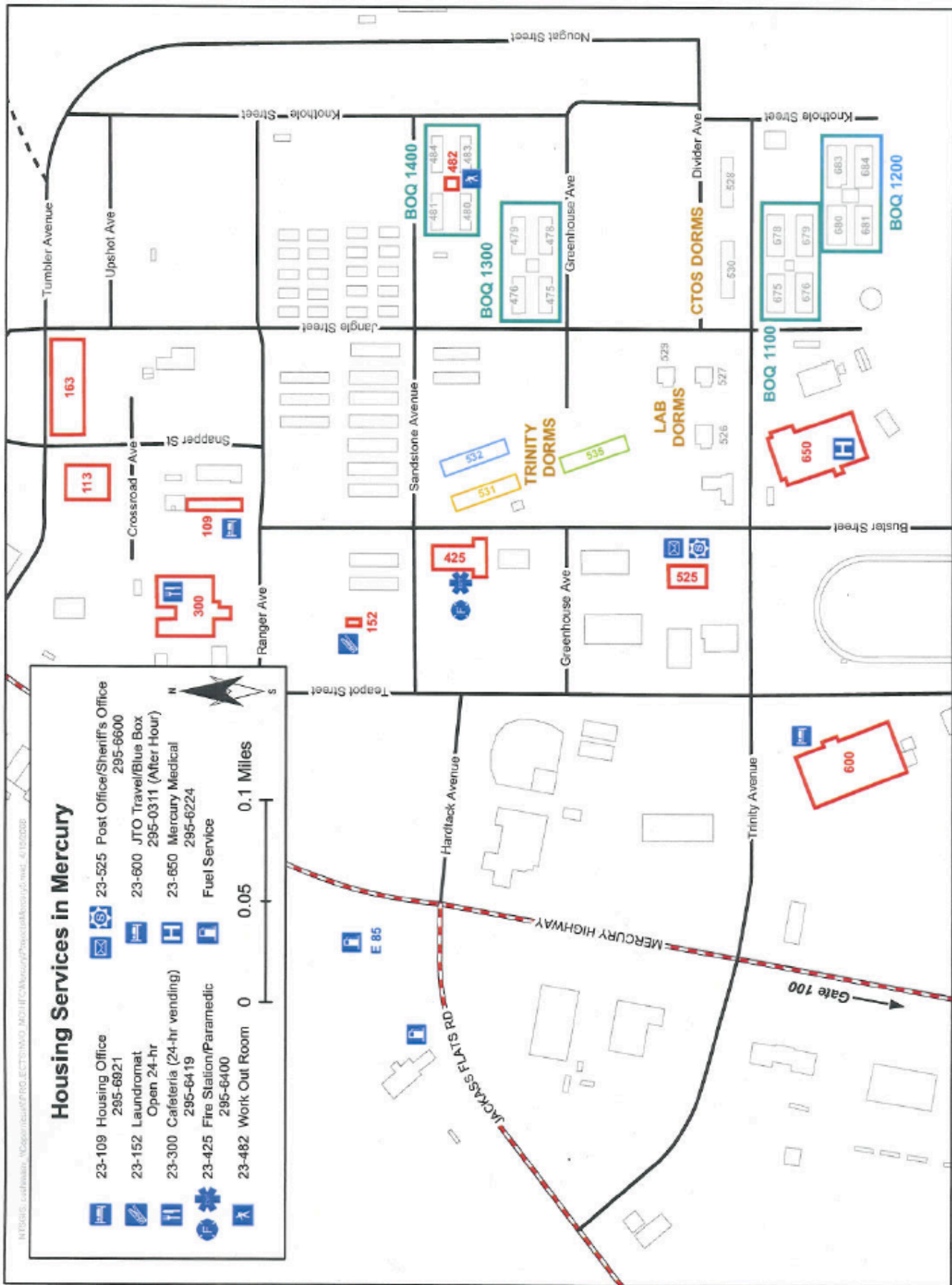
Maps



Nevada National Security Site Map.
Mercury and DAF are highlighted with red boxes.

Housing Services in Mercury

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|--|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | 23-109 Housing Office | | 23-525 Post Office/Sheriff's Office |
| | 295-6921 | | 295-6600 |
| | 23-152 Laundromat | | 23-600 JTO Travel/Blue Box |
| | Open 24-hr | | 295-0311 (After Hour) |
| | 23-300 Cafeteria (24-hr vending) | | 23-650 Mercury Medical |
| | 295-6419 | | 295-6224 |
| | 23-425 Fire Station/Paramedic | | Fuel Service |
| | 295-6400 | | |
| | 23-482 Work Out Room | | |



Nevada Support Facility (NSF)

